

Tailoring was also a thriving business. Messers Campbell, John and James Holden employed several men and were kept busy during early fall and winter or when weddings were in prospects. Weddings also gave the saddles a good trade. It was considered good form for the bride to have a new outfit, horse, saddle and bridle. The groom would not think he had much chance of success if he did not do his courting on a new saddle and bridle made at Huntersville.

FOCASHONTAS COUNTY
HISTORY OF KNAPPS CREEK COMMUNITY

(Written by Enid Harper)

In the eastern part of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, is Knapps Creek which has its source in the Alleghany Mountains about five miles above Frost. Its two branches unite at Frost from which place it continues to flow along the base of the mountains to the place where it empties into the Greenbrier River, at Marlinton, a distance of almost twenty miles from Frost. The East Fork of the Creek is fed by a stream which comes forth out of the rugged mountain side near Paddys Knob, a peak with an elevation of 4450 feet.

One of the principal tributaries of Knapps Creek of the Minehaha neighborhood which carries with it the waters of Cochrans Creek. At Huntersville Knapps Creek receives two other streams, Browns Creek from one side and Cummings Creek from the other.

Along the valley are numerous limestone springs, the waters of which are cold, an indication of purity. These help to make the creek larger. The first of them is a bold spring gushing out from under a hill near the fine home of S. Gibson. Further down the valley we find the stream called Mill Run near I. B. Moore's which receives water from a number of springs within a half mile. Next is the Mill Run at D. W. Dever's flowing through his farm where fine cattle graze. From here we go on to W. G. Rückman's where there is another stream of about equal volume. The source of it is also a magnificent, never failing stream.

Last but no least is the famous Minnehaha Spring on the Lockbridge property. The crystal water of this spring is of a healing and medical nature. It has been shipped to various parts of the country.

Origin of Names - "The Hills is the hilly region in the northwest of the valley. These are very productive lands and are excellent for fruit and grazing. They were at one time heavily timbered but now only small tracts remain uncut.

The creek from which our good community takes its name was known as Ewings Creek in the earliest land papers but was soon changed to Knapps Creek in honor of a man by the name of Knapp who came into the Valley from Virginia prior to 1749.

the report of this country probably led Martin and Sewell to make explorations in the Greenbrier Valley. At first the name of the creek was spelled K-A-P-S, later it was changed to KNAPP'S.

While here Knapp lived in a cabin on the west side of the creek about opposite the place where Mrs. P. L. Cleek now lives. It is not definitely known what became of him.

Indians. There are evidences that the Indians once roamed through the thick forests which covered what is now our beautiful section of country. Pieces of flint have been found by our citizens which were no doubt used by the Red Race. There was an Indian burial ground on a flat above the road a short distance up the valley from I. B. Moore's dwelling. Indications were to the older people that several Indians had been buried here. It has been said that a few relics were found in later years when some excavations were made.

Early settlers. Michael Dougherty, a native of Ireland, settled in our valley near where W. G. Ruckman lives about the year 1770. He was one of the first to occupy the Knapps Creek Region. The same year Moses Moore of Virginia came to Knapps Creek. It is interesting to note that he bought the land extending from J. L. Herold's to D. W. Bever's for the consideration of two steel bear traps and two pounds of English sterling. One of the traps is in the possession of I. B. Moore at this writing. The original cabin of Moses Moore was built on land now owned by Mrs. Myrtle Moore.

Mr. Moore was fond of hunting and would frequently spend several days in the region of the upper Greenbrier searching for game. One Sunday morning while sitting at his camp reading the Bible he was surrounded and captured by five or six Indians who compelled him to march to Ohio with them but through his cunningness he managed to escape and return to what is now Pocahontas County.

It is believed that the pioneer, Felix Grimes and his wife selected a site for a home in the hills near the Mt. Zion Church at a date preceding 1800.

Old records show that John Sharp, Sr., Christopher Herold, Henry Harper, and John Diller settled in our community between the years of 1800 and 1825 inclusive. We

should also mention that Lenty Lockridge and Michael Cleck came to the Valley early in the nineteenth century.

It was a task for the pioneers to clear the forest and build their homes with the poor equipment they had. They worked with a shop made poll axe. In places the thickets of white thorn and wild crab was almost impenetrable. When a primitive forest of white pine, sugar maple, and other trees of large size was cut, a log-rolling was soon in order and they were burned. Bears and wolves were numerous and sheep had to be penned near by the house to protect them.

Land. Many of these hardy pioneers were granted land by James Monroe, John Tyler, and other governors of Virginia between the years of 1800 and 1825. Some of them made difficult trips to Richmond in order that the title of the land where they settled might be made good. The value of the land was small in comparison with the cost per acre now. Old land grants show that one conveyance of land was made as late as 1857 at a little more than one cent per acre. This was a tract of timber land containing 11,000 acres in the Alleghany mountains which extend over to Back Creek. The sum paid for it only sixty-seven years ago (1790) was \$150.00. Since that time it has been sold and resold and millions of feet of valuable timber has been cut on it.

Making of a Rifle - At one time a man by the name of Evick lived in what is known as the Evick Hollow near Grover Moore's. He manufactures the Evick Rifle which was a famous gun in its day. We are told that one of these guns may be seen at the Pocahontas Times office. There may be some other hollows along the mountain that received names from men who were not permanent settlers.

Timber and saw mills. A fine lot of white pine timber stood along the foot of the Alleghany. Nearly all the good trees that grew on the level were destroyed because the settlers needed improved land more than timber. A number of sugar groves were left for the purpose of making maple sugar and syrup. The mountain timber has been going on the market since 1850. The white pine was cut first. The logs were peeled and floated down Knapps Creek and the Greenbrier River to nonceverts where they were manufactured by the St. Lawrence Manufacturing Company.

Capt. A. E. Scott and James Whiting, who did business under the firm name of